



Leo Drozdoff, *Administrator NDEP*  
Alex Haartz, *Administrator NSHD*

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
Release date: January 14, 2005

Governor  
KENNY C. GUINN  
State of Nevada

Division of Environmental Protection  
Cindy Petterson, 775-687-9395  
Nevada State Health Division  
Annie Uccelli, 775-684-4013  
Page 1 of 2

**NEVADA DIVISION OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AND  
NEVADA STATE HEALTH DIVISION  
NEWS RELEASE**

**NEVADA DIVISION OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AND  
NEVADA STATE HEALTH DIVISION REPORT SEWAGE SPILL IN UTAH**  
*Joint Agency Statement*

CARSON CITY—The State of Nevada Division of Environmental Protection received a report late on Thursday from the State of Utah Division of Water Quality that an ongoing untreated sewage spill is occurring near the confluence of the Santa Clara and Virgin River about five miles north of St. George Utah. Flooding in the communities of Santa Clara and Ivans Utah washed out 400 feet of a 36-inch sewage line and 800 feet of an 18-inch sewage line resulting in an estimated flow rate of 1.4 to 1.5 million gallons per day discharge. The path of the spill will likely follow the Santa Clara River to the Virgin River and ultimately enter Lake Mead. The Utah Division of Water Quality anticipates that repairs will be made by Sunday evening.

The flood conditions also ruptured approximately 400 feet of a main interceptor line and caused a sewage spill in Mesquite, Nev. Approximately 200,000 gallons spilled into the Virgin River before crews could stop the discharge.

"We alerted and remain in contact with appropriate local and state officials and water purveyors including Clark County Health Department, the State Health Division, the City of Mesquite, National Park Service, Las Vegas Valley Water District and the Southern Nevada Water Authority," Leo Drozdoff, NDEP administrator said. "NDEP staff will evaluate the status of these spills, continue to monitor environmental conditions and keep the appropriate parties apprised. We will continue to monitor the situation with the State of Utah."

The Nevada State Health Division strongly recommends that Nevada residents affected by the recent flooding along the Virgin River and at the point where the Virgin River empties into Lake Mead take precautionary measures due to a possibility of flood waters contaminated with raw sewage.

Bradford Lee, M.D., Nevada State Health Officer, urges affected residents to practice good personal hygiene as a first line of defense. "Personal sanitation is extremely important. I encourage you to wash your hands frequently, and avoid potentially contaminated flood waters. That means wearing protective clothing, boots and gloves, if working in the area. Additionally, parents are cautioned about children swimming, playing or fishing in the receding flood waters."

---

DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION AND NATURAL RESOURCES  
DIVISION OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION  
Allen Biaggi, *Director*  
Leo Drozdoff, *Administrator*

---

333 W. Nye Lane, Room 138  
Carson City, Nevada 89706  
Phone: 775-687-4670  
Fax: 775-687-5856

(continued)  
(page 2 of 2)

While skin contact with flood water does *not* by itself pose a serious health risk, there is some risk of disease if open cuts or sores that have been exposed to flood water. In that case, keep the area as clean as possible by washing well with soap and water to control infection. If a wound develops redness, swelling or drainage, seek immediate medical attention.

At this time, it is believed that local drinking water remains safe, and Southern Nevada Water Authority is implementing additional measures to ensure the continued safety of the drinking water supply.

For more information on flood-related health concerns, please visit the Clark County Health District's website at [www.cchd.org](http://www.cchd.org).

# # #